

Hampton Greenhouse No. Two  
535 Hampton Lane  
Southwest of Hampton Mansion  
Hampton National Historic Site  
Towson  
Baltimore County  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-226-U

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MD-226-U

HAMPTON GREENHOUSE No. TWO

Location: 535 Hampton Lane, southwest of Hampton Mansion,  
Hampton National Historic Site, Towson,  
Baltimore County, Maryland

Present Owner: U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park  
Service

Present Use: Vacant

Statement of  
Significance: Formally oriented to the falls and parterres of  
Hampton, this structure provided for the maintenance of the gardens.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The tract of land on which the Greenhouse No. Two was built was acquired in 1745 by Colonel Charles Ridgely from Clement and Ann Hill. The 1500 acre tract, "Northampton," had been inherited by Ann Hill from her father, Henry Darnall, who had patented it in 1695. Captain Charles Ridgely, Colonel Ridgely's son, inherited the property in 1772 after his father's death. Captain Ridgely, for whom Hampton Mansion was built, died in 1790. In accordance with his will, nephew Charles Carnan assumed title to much of the estate and the Ridgely name. On January 17, 1791, widow Rebecca Ridgely signed an agreement with Charles Carnan Ridgely to exchange a tract of land and a house for her rights, claims and interest to Hampton. The estate was inherited by Charles Carnan Ridgely's second son, John, in 1829, as his first son, Charles, had died in 1819. After John's death in 1867, the estate was inherited by his son, Charles, who bequeathed it to his son, John, in 1872. The estate was left to John Ridgely, Jr. in 1938, who sold the mansion to the Avalon Foundation in 1946. The foundation subsequently transferred it to the National Park Service in 1948 under the condition that the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities would maintain the estate after it was restored by the Park Service.

2. Date of erection: The greenhouse was built before 1843.
  3. Architect: Unknown
  4. Construction information: A November 18, 1839, entry in The Ridgely account books notes that William Gregory was paid \$22.00 for plastering a greenhouse, which may be this structure.
  5. Alterations and additions: At one time the greenhouse had elaborate Victorian detailing, which was removed when the modern Lord and Burnahm glazed greenhouse structure was installed.
  6. Important old views: This structure is located on the 1843 plat of the Hampton estate and is pictured in an early garden photograph located at the Maryland Historical Society.
- B. Historic Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:  
See the historical data for Hampton Mansion (HABS No. MD-226-A).
- C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and published sources: The Ridgely family papers are indexed by Avril J. M. Pedley in The Manuscript Collections of the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 1968. Contained are eight collection numbers which list eighty-seven volumes and approximately thirty-five boxes of loose material.

Within the National Park Service, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Division of History files is Norman M. Souder's "Historic Structures Report, Part I, Architectural Data Section, Rehabilitation of Greenhouses," 1966. The report includes measured drawings and photographs.

2. Secondary and published sources: Charles E. Peterson's Notes on Hampton Mansion contains a section on the gardens of Hampton.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The one-and-a-half story, rectangular structure consists of two sections, an east greenhouse structure and a west potting shed.

2. Condition of the fabric: Abandoned and deteriorating, the building was slated for stabilization in 1966.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The building measures 29'-3" x 63'-2".
2. Foundations: The greenhouse structure is built on brick foundations set on older limestone foundations. The potting shed is constructed on rubble limestone foundations.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The east end is constructed of brick, of which the north wall has collapsed. The west potting shed structure is constructed of rubble limestone.
4. Structural system: The masonry bearing walls support the floor and roof structures. Stone voussoirs are set over the masonry openings.
5. Porches: None
6. Chimney: A brick chimney without a cap extends from the top of the east stone wall of the potting shed. The flue extends to a furnace thimble at the lower level of the first floor of the potting shed. A smaller brick chimney is adjacent.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: At the east doorway is a stock door furnished by the greenhouse manufacturer. A four-light, two-panel door is at the south doorway. The west doorway has a board and batten door.
  - b. Windows and shutters: The single north window and the west window at the first floor of the potting shed have simple frames with single sash nailed into them. The second floor window in the west gable has six-over-six light double hung sash in an original frame.
8. Roof: The gable roof of the west end, which has been extensively altered has a standing seam tin roof. A raked parapet, accommodating the higher greenhouse roof, is at the east end and is capped with metal. The eaves have a plain fascia board set directly against the masonry. West verges extend approximately 14" beyond the walling and are trimmed with a jig-saw cut barge board with a wave pattern. The east greenhouse structure has a glazed gable roof structure.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The potting shed first floor is divided into two levels with the smaller, upper level providing access from the west entry and the greenhouse and the lower level providing the space for potting and a concrete boiler pit, 18" below the floor level. The second floor of the potting shed is a single room with closets under each eave. The greenhouse is divided into two levels longitudinally by a central stone wall. The east door has traces of a former entrance vestibule.
2. Stairways: The two levels of the greenhouse have concrete steps constructed in conjunction with the concrete entrance way of the east elevation. From the upper level of the first floor of the potting shed a flight of steps with three risers descends to the potting room and a steep flight with eight risers ascends to the attic. The attic stair, in an enclosure, has railings on both sides which consist of square newels, mortised and tenoned with two rails on each side. Concrete steps connect the upper level of the greenhouse to the upper level of the potting shed.
3. Flooring: The lower level of the potting shed floor is brick paved and the upper level has a wood plank floor. The attic has random width, tongue and groove pine boards. In the greenhouse, the upper level is paved with marble flags and the aisles of the lower portion are brick paved. Slate flags paved the former east vestibule area.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The potting shed is plastered except at the flush board partition between the upper and lower levels. All the walls of the attic are plastered as are the ceilings. Exposed joists and undersides of floor boarding form the ceiling of the first floor. The greenhouse is standard Lord and Burnham construction. The west wall of the greenhouse is plastered and is scarred by previous building and roof levels.
5. Doors and doorways: Board and batten doors with beaded boarding are hung within plain board frames at the potting shed attic closets and at the entrance between the greenhouse and the potting shed.
6. Special decorative features: A 4" plain baseboard is used in the attic room, which has wide boards lining the window reveal. Unusual features in the attic room are two hatches or skylights, now covered over by the roofing, and an air slot in the center of the ceiling. The interior slot is

plastered to the roofing, which is bent away from the opening in the form of a funnel. It appears that the room may have been used for drying seeds and bulbs. A long potting table and bins for the storage of pots remain in the potting room.

7. Hardware: The potting shed hardware is typical of the nineteenth century. The greenhouse hardware is contemporary with the glazing structure.

8. Mechanical equipment: A cast iron boiler, greatly deteriorated and still having its steam piping, is located in the potting shed boiler pit.

D. Site and Surroundings: Greenhouse No. Two is located to the west of the Hampton gardens on axis between the upper restored parterres. It is adjacent to Greenhouse No. One, which angles 135° from the south elevation. A marble chip paved path beside the falls of the garden rises to Hampton Mansion.

### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was initially financed with funds from the "Mission 66" Program of the National Park Service under the direction of Charles E. Peterson, Supervising Architect, Historic Structures. Hampton Mansion was measured in 1958 by Student Assistant Architects Orville W. Carroll (University of Oregon), Harold A. Nelson (University of Michigan), and Trevor Nelson (M.I.T.), with Professor Lee H. Nelson (University of Illinois) as Project Supervisor. The complex was measured and drawn in 1959 by Student Assistant Architects Charles C. Boldrick (University of Notre Dame), Richard C. Mehring (University of Virginia) and Herbert L. Banks (University of Florida), with Professor F. Blair Reeves (University of Florida) as Project Supervisor.

The project was edited in 1972-73 by Rodd L. Wheaton, Architect, Historic American Buildings Survey, who prepared the historical data edited and expanded the 1959 architectural data and recorded several, structures which were previously unrecorded.